



**WCFC Meeting  
November 12, 2008  
Camas Public Library  
625 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Camas, WA**

**Members present:** Joe Scorcio, Sarah Griffith, Jim Flott, Marilyn Hyde, Kelly Puntene, Terry Flatley, Barry Johnson, Kathy Wolf, Sandy Salisbury, Jim Freed, Steve Dubiel, Jeff Beckwith, Neil Burkhardt, Linda Vane, Scott Thomas, and Barbara Hollenbeck

**Members absent:** Rich Baker, David Nelson, and Bill Sanborn

**Guests:** Janice Pacific, Mark Kahley, Stacey Ray, Lloyd Halverson – City of Camas, Jessica Antoine – City of Vancouver, Charles Ray- Urban Forester for Vancouver, Gordon McWilliams - Urban Forestry Commissioner of Vancouver, Micki McNaughton – CTED, Lisa Paribello – Audubon Washington, Dana Karcher – Davey Resource Group, Ian Scott – Davey Resource Group, Florence Wager, Barb and Dave West, Ericka Johnson, and Vicki Lee

**Action Items:**

- Sarah will get copies of the latest updated Strategic Plan to the Council members
- Lisa will e-mail the new list of legislators to Sarah
- Ian, Micki and Jim Freed will help Sarah with Legislative Outreach Day preparations

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions – Chair**

Joe welcomed everyone; then introductions were made. Lloyd Halverson, City of Camas welcomed everyone to Camas. He then gave a verbal tour and background of Camas.

Kelly updated the Council on the tree planting they would be doing. The Mayor will arrive at noon, and at 12:30 p.m. the Council will drive up the hill to 17<sup>th</sup> Street for the tree planting. The County Parks Commission Chair will also be there.

**Agenda and August Minutes Review – Chair/All**

Changes were made to the agenda. The tree planting was added, revision and finalization of the Strategic Plan was canceled, Kathy's presentation was canceled, and some time slots were switched around. The Strategic Plan will be finalized at the February meeting.

August minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, Barbara moved to accept the minutes with no corrections, Barry seconded; minutes were approved.

**Program Update, DNR News, Ag-Forestry Program, Budget and Hiring -**

Kahley stated that DNR is currently in the process through direction of the Office of Financial Management (OFM), of examining all of our general fund state programs for 20 percent cuts. Should this happen, that means everything is up in the air. The Legislature will prioritize the 20 percent. Good news

1 is we still have federal funding to continue urban forestry. We have additional support both from  
2 Audubon Washington, and Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED). The possibilities  
3 aren't great, but the potential is there that we would see some reductions; but should be able to maintain  
4 our program. The direction we've been given is to look at all of the programs that are funded by general  
5 fund, and look at cutting them. The cuts for all the Resource Protection Programs will total somewhere in  
6 the vicinity of "six million dollars". We will see some direction from Executive Management, OFM, and  
7 definitely the Legislature sometime in January. The budget will not be finalized until April. So there are  
8 still many opportunities for interested organizations to influence the legislative process.

10 Joe stated that this is not a targeted shot at Urban Forestry and the Department of Natural Resources  
11 (DNR); this is a straight across the board cut in virtually every government entity in the State of  
12 Washington. They are doing this all around the country. The impact to the general funding for the  
13 Evergreen Communities Act (ECA), which was allotted \$251,000, could also be 20 percent.

15 Mark commented that the cuts that have already been made will make it impossible to have the inventory  
16 done even by 2011. We have received approval to hire the Inventory Coordinator; however based upon  
17 uncertainties right now we are hesitant to hire somebody especially if things turn out not the way we  
18 hoped they would be. If that is the case, they would not have a job in a few months.

20 Mark relayed that the Commissioner election is not yet decided. The election vote certification needs to  
21 be to the Secretary of State by November 25. A new Commissioner would change the Department  
22 dramatically; changes would most likely affect the Land Steward, the Aquatic Steward, the Director of  
23 Executive Policy and Administration, and the State Forester; which is also the Executive Director for  
24 Regulatory Programs (Mark's Boss). Below that, DNR staff will continue to do their jobs and serve the  
25 State of Washington. The focus of their jobs may change, the policies may change, but they will do their  
26 jobs to the best of their ability as they have always done. If we get a new Commissioner, the inauguration  
27 date would be January 13, 2009.

29 The recommendation for new Council members and re-appointments will go to Commissioner Sutherland  
30 if Council member terms are ending prior to the end of his term; he may opt for the new Commissioner to  
31 make the decision.

33 Joe advised that the Board was created statutorily; we exist as an entity and have obligations,  
34 requirements and responsibilities. It doesn't matter exactly who the Commissioner is; we predated this  
35 one and should postdate the next one. From that perspective it is business as usual. For those whose terms  
36 are ending, please let Sarah know today if you want to be re-appointed to the Council; so that the staff can  
37 process appointments. Also, any member who wants to opt off the Council needs to let Sarah know today.

39 Sarah thanked everyone that was leaving for their time served on the Council.

40 Joe pointed out in our February meeting each year we traditionally meet with the Commissioner and State  
41 Forester; so here are a few follow up suggestions in case of new Commissioner:

- 43 1. If there is a change in Commissioner, I would like to have a couple of members who are continuing  
44 on, be available to serve as a mini transition team. (Monitor what is going on, work with the agency;  
45 like the Legislative Committee).
- 47 2. Joe would like authorization from the Council to send a letter to the new Commissioner, should he be  
48 elected, telling him we are here, who we are, welcoming him to his position, and inviting him to the  
49 February meeting.

51 Sandy suggested some members offer to meet with the Commissioner.

53 Dana has a map that shows what is happening at the National level in legislation, and would be happy to  
54 share that. It would be a great tool to use.

1  
2 Kathy agreed about the face to face meeting; however we need to craft the message first. The basic  
3 starting point should be trees and cities management, and a more historic story about urban forestry, and  
4 where the program is now.  
5

6 Mark urged that if there is a transition, it is critical that representatives of this group meet with the  
7 transition team prior to the Commissioner taking office. You can begin to explain and sell the program  
8 before he even sets a foot into that office. As soon as the transition team has been announced, an  
9 appointment needs to be set up immediately.  
10

11 Joe stressed that the message should be about what the Council contributes, not about DNR.  
12

13 Joe re-phrased suggestion number one to say: **He is looking for some volunteers who want to serve as**  
14 **our monitoring team for the transition.** Linda, Kelly, and Jim Freed, Joe, Sarah and Kathy volunteered  
15 to be on the team.  
16

17 **Motion** was made for a monitoring team for the transition, Sandy moved to accept, Jeff seconded; motion  
18 passed.  
19

20 **Motion** was made authorizing the Chair to send a letter if Peter Goldmark becomes Commissioner, Jeff  
21 moved to accept, Barry seconded; motion passed.  
22

23 **Motion** was made to authorize the Chair to send a letter to Doug Sutherland regarding budget issues, and  
24 congratulations on his re-election, if he remains Commissioner; if not, then a letter thanking him for his  
25 eight years of support. Sandy moved to accept, Terry seconded; motion was passed.  
26

27 Kathy expressed that when we talk to the Commissioner we talk about what we have now, also provide a  
28 mission for the future.  
29

30 **City of Vancouver – Mayor Charles Ray, Commissioner Gordon McWilliams, and Jessica Antoine**  
31 Kelly gave introductions. The Mayor talked about budget reduction, and some of the projects the city is  
32 working on: 1) updated Heritage Tree List, 2) a Tree Awareness Campaign, 3) planting of 200 trees for  
33 the fall, and 4) tree plantings for winter (600 trees). Their Public Works department is now funded 90  
34 percent from storm water fees.  
35

36 Commissioner McWilliams commented he was truly impressed with the urban forestry program in  
37 Vancouver. The leadership and team effort has helped a lot. Bringing on transportation, storm water and  
38 community development departments in the city; all compliment each other. We have a great program  
39 and great staff.  
40

41 Sarah passed around expense vouchers. We have completed interviews for the Inventory Coordinator  
42 position; we are on hold for today. I will send out an e-mail as soon as we know something.  
43

44 Stacey and Sarah have been working on a number of things:

- 45 • TreeLink is now electronic, it has its own e-mail address: [Urban\\_Forestry@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Urban_Forestry@dnr.wa.gov)
- 46 • Tree City USA has received two new applications so far this year. (Last year we had a total of 71)  
47 The applications are due by the end of December. Tree Line USA applications are in process, with no  
48 new ones received yet.
- 49 • Attended a number of conferences in the last couple of months.
- 50 • In October we worked on a lot of things pertaining to federal grants.  
51

52 Sarah talked about the three seminars for Ag-Forestry she has been to since August. The next seminar will  
53 be in Seattle on urban issues. January 13<sup>th</sup>, her class will be heading to China for two weeks. After

1 returning, Sarah and her class will finish the group project, submit the white paper, make the group  
2 presentation and then graduate in May.

### 3 4 **APA Conference Presentation and Exhibit Re-Cap - Joe**

5 Stacey and Joe attended the conference in early October, in Spokane. Some of the topics on the agenda  
6 were the ECA, and climate change, it was well attended. It was a whole new audience for UCF, and gave  
7 us a chance to work with planners. Linda's husband was a planner at the conference and gave Stacey  
8 great reviews.

9 Kathy told of another group working with APA, and that was the Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition.  
10 These are National level resources but are crafted to be used at the local level. Kathy made mention of  
11 some urban forestry guides for public works professionals. You can reach them by going to this link.  
12 [http://actrees.org/site/stories/developing\\_and\\_managing\\_an\\_urban\\_forestry\\_pro.php?tag=news](http://actrees.org/site/stories/developing_and_managing_an_urban_forestry_pro.php?tag=news)

13 Next year the Washington APA Conference will be held in Vancouver in October; Oregon APA will  
14 likely be joining. There should be about 700 attendees.

### 15 16 **Update on Federal Activities, Programs and Funding – Barbara Hollenbeck**

17 The President did put out a budget, and urban forestry funding went down again. The House and the  
18 Senate have constituents that put together a budget, and that is what has kept the Urban Forestry Program  
19 going in the past. We suspect that we will have a budget in early 2009; however we don't know yet what  
20 it will be. The urban forestry folks got together and said if we were going to advise the new  
21 administration what would we say? The programs in state and private forestry, which urban forestry is  
22 one, all have something to do and can contribute to solutions for: 1) water, 2) energy, 3) climate change,  
23 and 4) human health and well-being. This is what we will use to craft our message. The Forest Service  
24 has put together a grant (Kathy is putting together information for Washington DC)

25  
26 There is going to be a planning session put on by the Conservation Fund, Forest Service, and Oregon  
27 Department of Forestry just south of Portland. It has to do with when you plan for a city; how you plan  
28 those green corridors, there is a link and connections with habitat, and people. This will take place in the  
29 spring. Sarah, Stacey, and Barbara will be working on that.

30  
31 Forest Service research at a National level has decided in the last year that urban is the place to be. They  
32 are calling it Urban National Research Stewardship Network.

33  
34 Jim Freed was recently in Vermont and spent some time with John Pierce from the USFS. One of the  
35 programs they are putting together is Preparing Urban Communities for Natural Disasters as far as tree  
36 issues. Joe added it would make a good session for APA.

### 37 38 **Meeting Dates and Locations for 2009 – Chair**

- 39  
40  
41  
42  
43
- February 18, 2009, Olympia Natural Resource Building, Room 172
  - May, 20, 2009, Ellensburg
  - August 19, 2009, Spokane
  - November 18, 2009, Kirkland

44 **Motion** was made to approve locations, Sandy moved to accept, Jim Flott seconded; motion was  
45 approved.

46  
47 Sandy asked to be switched from Outreach Committee, to the Legislative Committee.

48  
49 Joe passed around the Council Roster for members to write in any corrections.

### 50 51 **Award Presentation and Tree Planting – Sandy Salisbury**

1 The Council made introductions. Kelly introduced Florence Wager who will be helping to plant the tree.  
2 We are honoring Barb West for her work with her staff for the STEPS Program, and the Walkabout  
3 Guide. Florence is a long time Parks Commission member.  
4

5 Sandy pointed out we are honoring Ericka Johnson, who was nominated by Charles and Jessica for all of  
6 her work:

- 7 • For seven years she has been a neighborhood coordinator and crew leader with Friends of Trees
- 8 • She has dedicated 100 hours to her neighborhood over the years
- 9 • She has been instrumental in expanding the Friends of Trees Project throughout Vancouver
- 10 • She continues to motivate and empower other volunteers
- 11 • In 2002 she began as a member of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Commission
- 12 • In 2007 she accepted the position of Chair
- 13 • She is also participating in the Green Ribbon Sustainability Panel for Vancouver

14  
15 Sandy presented her with a certificate of thanks from the Council. Ericka had her picture taken with the  
16 Council members.  
17

18 A background was given on the Executive, Legislative, and Outreach Committees for the new members.  
19 Joe advised he would be seeking volunteers to Chair the Committees.  
20

#### 21 **Update on Evergreen Communities Act Implementation – Sarah Griffith and Micki McNaughton**

22 Micki advised the Evergreen Communities Partnership Task Force (ECPTF) has been convened. That was  
23 her priority when she was hired in August as the Urban Forestry Specialist for CTED. Her specific task is  
24 the implementation of CTED's portion of the ECA. ECPTF met for the first time, with 20 members; and  
25 everyone has committed to stay until the end of 2010. The meeting schedule is set up, with work plans  
26 through the end of 2010 to accomplish everything CTED is suppose to do by that time. This is all on  
27 CTED's website, under local government. Five members of this Council are also on the Task Force.  
28 CTED is responsible for crafting the model ordinances, the model management plan and a recognition  
29 program.  
30

31 Stacey will be providing the technical assistance to CTED. The Task Force meets the month preceding  
32 the Council meetings which is on the second Tuesday of the month. Public is welcomed.  
33

34 Lisa talked about Audubon which is a non-profit. They are pretty vocal about what we are supporting and  
35 advocating. There is a grant account established at CTED, and the purpose of that account is to give  
36 money to local governments to implement these model ordinances and the ones being are developed.  
37 Audubon will be pushing forward a two million dollar ask to the legislature out of the capitol budget. If  
38 the money isn't allocated this year; they are at least laying the ground work. Audubon's 26 Chapters,  
39 20,000 members will keep pushing it in front of the legislators. One of the other things is a two million  
40 dollar capitol budget appropriation or a two million dollar endowment. She will keep the Council posted.  
41

#### 42 **Nominations for 2009 Officers - All**

43 Chair – Everyone nominated Joe

44 Vice Chair – Jeff nominated Terry  
45

46 The voting will take place at the February Council meeting.  
47

#### 48 **Sub-Committee Break Out – All**

#### 49 **Sub-Committee Reports – Sub-Committee Chairs**

#### 50 **Out Reach and Awards Committee – Jeff Beckwith Chair for 2009**

- 51 • Talked about putting together the ECA information packet. Wade Alonzo was going to help with that.  
52 (The new staff can work on it) Micki did develop a postcard that could be handed out.  
53

- Would like to get a list of this Council's alumni from Stacey, in order to invite them to our meetings when in their area.
- If people arrive the night before a meeting it would be helpful to have a list of projects in the area of the meeting. That way whoever arrived the night before, if they have a couple of hours, they could go out and look at them. Jim has agreed to work on organizing the committee to put it together.
- Is it possible to set aside 15 minutes of every meeting so that one of the members or local guest can talk very specifically about what they are doing in the area? Scott has agreed to help with that.
- Press release should get out before a meeting (Send to your networks).

#### **Government Affairs – Sandy Chair for 2009**

- Pay attention to the ECPTF and what is going on, and see how we can work together with them. We are going to pay attention to our ordinances and management plan and the awards.
- We are going to focus on budget, dollars and how that is moving forward in legislature.
- Work with organizations, especially Audubon to see how we can get the urban forestry message out.
- Will continue to communicate with legislators.
- If there is a new Commissioner we need to meet with him.
- There has been a history of talking with and related efforts to keep tree friendly legislators. We want to continue to do that.
- Taking a look at what is going on across the state and how we can integrate trees into that discussion.
- Not focusing on single messages, but broader messages.

Lisa addressed the fact that there would be new legislators coming in, and Audubon is working on a new list right now. She will send it to Sarah.

Sarah commented they were going to have a Legislative Outreach Day at the NRB, and thought putting price tags and pictures on the trees closet to the NRB would be helpful and educational. Ian volunteered to help Sarah facilitate prior to the February meeting. Micki offered to help if this is before January 13. Jim Freed will help too.

**Motion** was made to establish an Alumni Sub-Committee, seconded and passed. Joe appointed Steve the new Chair of the Alumni Sub-Committee. Linda, Bill and Marilyn volunteered to serve on the new Sub-Committee.

Joe expressed his gratitude from the Council for all the efforts Marilyn and Linda have done for the Council.

#### **Round Table – All**

**Marilyn** – She is on the Benton County Parks Board. Benton County had leased a section of land down by the Gap on the Columbia River, called Hoker Park, with a nice sandy beach. (Only one in the County) She had a dream to do something with the park. So she worked with the Corp of Engineers to get a map of the flood plans, and then talked to the Sheriff to get a work force. They stepped forward, Howard Madsen took down his chipper, and a gentleman from Kennewick brought down his chainsaw. Next she is going to the volunteer firemen; and her urban forestry group will train them to make the right cuts on the Russian olive. Now the Native Plant Society wants to get on board, and the Purple Sage Riders. The trail riders will bring their pickups down to pick up the branches. They will use the longer branches to make a corral.

**Terry** – On the way down to the meeting he was listening to NPR, and a research scientist did an analysis of the entire planet's tree coverage and figured out that there are 61 trees per person on the planet.

**Jim Freed** – WSU, DNR and the Farm Forestry Association did a survey on landowners in the State of Washington who owned five acres or more of timberland. For years we have been saying about 60,000 small forest landowners. We were off quite a bit, it was closer to 248, 000.

1  
2 **Kathy** – LEED certification is the sustainability of building structures. It is incentive based, not  
3 regulatory. There is a Sustainable Sites Initiative which is a companion program for certification of  
4 environmentally designed sites. The roll out of the performance certification metrics happened early this  
5 week. Kathy urged the Council to take a look at it. In many communities urban forestry is taking place on  
6 private land. So if we can motivate, compel, urge, and reward people for including more trees and  
7 vegetation on their own private sites; here is a system that will, in another 18 months to two years, reward  
8 them with a LEED type certification. The report is huge and in draft, they are looking for comments from  
9 people all over the country. The metrics will be revised, they will go into demonstration sites for testing  
10 and see how well they capture site sustainability; and then it will go into a certification program. The  
11 draft report can be found at: <http://www.sustainablesites.org/>  
12

13 During her recent travels and talks she is being solely asked to talk about human health and well being  
14 related to forestry. This is an interesting trend; which means the environmental message is getting out.  
15

16 **Linda** – thanked everybody, she enjoyed the two terms she served; and was glad they formed the Alumni  
17 group.  
18

19 **Kelly** – Vancouver has been the recipient of an incredible piece of property, 8.8 acres of prime water and  
20 property. Dr. Weber left the property to the community if they were willing to build an arboretum. So our  
21 goal is to build that arboretum. He is on of the five trustees overseeing this project and raising a million  
22 dollars in the first two years. The property will be worth at least 10 million dollars.  
23

24 Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.  
25

26 The next meeting will be in Olympia, WA, at the Natural Resource Building, in Room 172  
27